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# URBAN DISTRICT OF ROYTON

# ANNUAL REPORT

# OF THE

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# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

# AND

# PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

## FOR THE YEAR 1956

T.P. O'GRADY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

VERNON K. HALLOWS, M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector.

TOWN HALL,
ROYTON.

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# URBAN DISTRICT OF ROYTON

Chairman of the Council, 1956-57

Councillor C. Heywood, J.P.

## Health Committee, 1956-57

Councillor G. Sherratt, Chairman
Councillor H. Kay, Vice-Chairman
Councillor S. B. Crosland
Councillor W. E. Critchley
Councillor C. Heywood, J.P.
Councillor C. Livesey
Councillor J. Williamson
Councillor J. Crothers, A.R.I.B.A.
Councillor T. Buckley
Councillor G. L. Buckley, J.P., C.C.
Councillor H. H. Broadbent
Councillor W. Dunkerley
Councillor B. C. Cook
Councillor H. M. Taylor
Councillor W. L. Crowder.

Medical Officer of Health:

T. P. O'GRADY, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

VERNON K. HALLOWS, M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 30.11.56)

Public Health Inspector's Assistant:

CLIFFORD P. WEBB.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Health Committee of the Urban
District Council of Royton.

November, 1957.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health of the district for 1956.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population was 14,350, a decrease of 80 on 1955 and of 422 on the 1951 census figures. Births totalled 179 giving a rate of 13.1 - the lowest since 1951.

Deaths from all causes amounted to 179 and the mortality rate of 14.0 per 1,000 of the population compares with the rate of 11.7 for England and Wales. The principal causes of death were Heart and Circulatory diseases, Cancer, and Bronchitis - Pneumonia. The increasing importance over recent years of some causes of death is largely related to the changing age composition of the population. Whereas in 1901, persons aged 65 years and over amounted to 5% of the total population in England and Wales, in 1955 this proportion was over 11%.

There were 8 infant deaths, of which 6 occurred in the first week of life. In contrast to the great reduction in infant mortality that has been achieved in recent years, there has been relatively only slight improvement in respect of infant deaths occurring in the first week of life and due mainly to such conditions as prematurity and congenital malformations. Much effort and research is now being devoted to ascertaining and investigating the basic causes of such conditions with a view to prevention.

Lung cancer accounted for 5 deaths during 1956. The death-rate generally for this disease has doubled over the past 10 years and now accounts for 1 in 18 of all male deaths. Independent investigations in several countries over recent years tend to co-relate the increase in lung cancer with tobacco and particularly cigarette smoking. No doubt other factors also play a part but it does appear beyond reasonable doubt that cigarette smoking is the most important factor yet known.

Infectious diseases notified during the year numbered 101. The decrease from the total of 520 for the preceding year was due to the relative absence of measles and dysentery. Quantitatively, the principal infectious diseases were dysentery (32 cases) and food poisoning (29 cases).

Nine cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year. The incidence-rate of 0.63 per 1,000 of the population compares with the corresponding rates for England and Wales of 0.8 and for the Administrative County of 0.64 (excluding transfers). Recent years have seen an unprecedented decline in tuberculosis deaths and notifications. Despite this, and as stated in the Ministry of Health Report for 1955, tuberculosis caused 67% of all deaths from infectious diseases during 1955. Furthermore, 78% of these deaths occurred in persons aged 15 - 39 years.

The problem of atmospheric pollution is dealt with at length in the body of the report.

There are three licensed private slaughterhouses in Royton compared with the total of 166 private slaughterhouses and 8 public abattoirs within the Administrative County. The throughput in Royton in 1956 shows a 32% overall increase on 1955 - the increased throughput of cattle being 25% - and amounted to over 7% of the County total. The comparative percentage in respect of cattle (including cows) was nearly 8%. It goes without saying that the three slaughterhouses caters for a population many times that contained within the district. These facts indicate the heavy burden and responsibility imposed on the Public Health Inspector and the Pupil Assistant, and in the circumstances it is understandable that other commitments have had to suffer by default. For this reason, it may be noted that during the year only 81 visits were made to food premises, of which there are 235 in the district, no visits of inspection to factories were made, nor was any work possible in respect of the Shops Act.

I have to thank the Public Health Inspector for his ever willing assistance and co-operation. I also wish to make due acknowledgment to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the interest shown in the work of the Health Department.

Yours faithfully,
T.P. O'GRADY,
Medical Officer of Health.

## General Statistics

| | |
|---|---|
| Area in Acres – | 2,149 |
| Population – | |
| Census 1951 | 14,772 |
| Registrar-General's Estimate 1956 | 14,350 |
| Number of inhabited houses at end of 1956 | 5,046 |
| Rateable Value | £153,157 |
| Sum represented by penny rate | £615 |

## Vital Statistics

| | | 1956 | 1955 | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Livebirths | No. | 179 | 191 | 192 | 213 | 209 |
| | Adj. Rate | 13.1 | 13.9 | 13.9 | 14.4 | 14.0 |
| Deaths | No. | 179 | 191 | 174 | 146 | 226 |
| | Adj. Rate | 14.0 | 13.6 | 12.4 | 10.4 | 15.9 |
| Stillbirths | No. | 2 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| | Rate | 11 | 10 | 25 | 32 | 19 |
| Maternal Mortality | No. | – | – | – | – | – |
| | Rate | – | – | – | – | – |
| Infant Mortality Deaths in infants under 1 year old | No. | 8 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 11 |
| | Rate | 45 | 31 | 26 | 23 | 53 |
| Neo-natal Mortality Deaths of infants under 4 weeks old | No. | 6 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| | Rate | 34 | 16 | 21 | 14 | 29 |

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## DEATHS

| Causes | M | F | 1956 Total | 1955 Total | 1954 Total | 1953 Total | 1952 Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tuberculosis - Respiratory | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| Other | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Syphilitic Disease | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| Malignant neoplasms- | | | | | | | |
| Stomach | 5 | - | 5 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 8 |
| Lung & Bronchus | 4 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| Breast | - | 6 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Uterus | - | 3 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Other | 9 | 5 | 14 | 21 | 14 | 17 | 13 |
| Diabetes | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 5 | 7 | 12 | 25 | 25 | 13 | 28 |
| Coronary disease, Angina | 4 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 14 | 11 | 14 |
| Hypertension with Heart Disease | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Other heart disease | 4 | 15 | 19 | 42 | 45 | 31 | 59 |
| Other circulatory diseases | 14 | 15 | 29 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| Influenza | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| Pneumonia | 3 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Bronchitis | 14 | 6 | 20 | 7 | 15 | 10 | 19 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | - | 1 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | 2 |
| Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 5 |
| Congenital malformations | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 16 | 10 | 26 | 23 | 21 | 23 | 30 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 2 | 1 | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | - |
| All other accidents | 4 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 3 | - |
| Suicide | 3 | - | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | 2 |
| Homicide and operations of war | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 98 | 83 | 181 | 191 | 174 | 146 | 226 |

## DEATHS

| Ages | M | F | 1956 Total | 1955 Total | 1954 Total | 1953 Total | 1952 Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 11 |
| 1 - 5 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |
| 5 - 15 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 15 - 25 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 25 - 45 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 13 | 6 | 13 |
| 45 - 65 | 22 | 31 | 53 | 37 | 50 | 47 | 56 |
| 65 - 75 | 22 | 33 | 55 | 61 | 53 | 45 | 72 |
| Over 75 - | 33 | 22 | 55 | 83 | 50 | 40 | 69 |

## Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and other diseases.

### 1 - Statistics

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified, in age groups, together with the number admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases :-

| | Cases Notified | | | | | | | Total 1956 | Total 1955 | Total cases removed to hospital | Total Deaths |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Years | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 0 - 1 | 1 - 5 | 5 - 15 | 15 - 25 | 25 - 45 | 45 - 65 | 65 & over | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | - | 7 | 6 | - | - | - | - | 13 | 16 | 2 | - |
| Whooping Cough | - | 9 | 7 | - | - | - | - | 16 | 3 | 1 | - |
| Measles | - | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | - | 6 | 261 | 1 | - |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 4 | 2 | 3 | - |
| Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Dysentery | 3 | 21 | 3 | - | 4 | 1 | - | 32 | 222 | 15 | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | - | 1 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 9 | - | 29 | 13 | - | - |
| | 4 | 43 | 21 | 8 | 15 | 10 | - | 101 | 520 | 23 | - |

### 2 - Diphtheria

Again there were no cases of diptheria - the seventh successive year. Thanks largely to immunisation we have remained free from it. Every child should have this protection carried out before its first birthday and further protective doses should be given every five years upto the age of 15 or 16. Neglect of these precautions even on a moderate scale might readily re-awaken the disease amongst the unprotected children. The Ministry estimate that at least 75% of all children born each year should be immunised if this infection is to remain dormant.

### 3 - Scarlet Fever

There were 13 notifications against 17 in the previous year. All were mild cases.

### 4 - Measles and Whooping Cough

Only 6 cases of Measles were notified compared with 261 in 1955. There were 16 notifications of Whooping Cough, and only 3 in 1955.

## 5 - Poliomyelitis

For the second successive year there were no cases of this disease.

## 6.- Dysentery

Dysentery cases dropped from 222 in 1955 to only 32 this year. Most of the latter occurred in the 0 - 5 age groups and all were mild cases.

## 7 - Food Poisoning

There were two outbreaks during the year in the District. The first one occurred in July/August and was part of a larger outbreak in adjoining districts. The vehicle of infection was "vanilla sandwich" which originated in a bakehouse in Rochdale.

The second outbreak was in October. The vehicle of infection was a quantity of brisket of beef supplied to a local mill canteen. In all, 30 people were affected of which 14 were Royton residents.

## 8 - Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1956.

| Age Periods | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Respiratory | | Non - Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non - Respiratory | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Years | | | | | | | | |
| 0 - 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 - 15 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 - 25 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 - 35 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35 - 45 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 - 55 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| 55 - 65 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - |
| Over 65 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 4 | 5 | - | - | 5 | 1 | - | - |
| | 9 | | - | | 6 | | - | |

The number of cases remaining on the register on 31st December, 1956, was :-

| | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Respiratory | 38 | 31 | 69 |
| Non-respiratory | 9 | 6 | 15 |
| Totals | 47 | 37 | 84 |

# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE AREA

The following services are administered by the Lancashire County Council through the No. 14, Health Divisional Office at "Tylon", Middleton Road, Chadderton. (Telephone MAIn 6251.)

| | |
|---|---|
| Ambulance | Home Help |
| School Health Service | Maternity and Child Welfare |
| Care of the Aged | Mental Health |
| District Nurse | Midwifery |
| Health Visitor | Welfare of the Physically Handicapped |

Hospital facilities are provided and maintained through the Regional Hospital Board and Hospital Management Committees without regard to local authority boundaries.

The examination of pathological specimens, samples of milk, ice-cream, water and other foods is undertaken, without charge to the Council by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Monsall Hospital, Manchester, 10.

## National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951.

These two acts give authority to secure necessary care and attention for persons who :-

(a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged and infirm or physically incapicatated, or living in insanitary conditions, and

(b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

No applications were made under the above Acts during the year.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Health Committee of the Urban District
Council of Royton.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your perusal the Annual Report upon the Sanitary administration of the district and the work done during the year 1956.

Although I have been responsible for the preparation of this Report the work detailed has been accomplished by my predecessor and his assistant. During the whole of December when the Department was without a Senior Officer, Mr. C. P. Webb, ably carried out full duties of a public health inspector and at a time when the throughput at the slaughterhouses was at its peak.

It is worthy of note that no work has been carried out under the Clean Air Act, 1956, the Factories Act, 1937, and the Shops Act, 1950, and although initial progress was made under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, this important work had to be abandoned. My thanks to the typist who has helped with the preparation and stencilling of this Report.

LESLIE WHITELEY.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

### Atmospheric Pollution

Atmospheric Pollution produced by combustion of coal and allied products has, as its three main components Smoke, Grit and Ash, and Sulphur Dioxide. The following table, based on estimates given in the Beaver Report shows the pollution discharged annually in the United Kingdom. The figures are in millions of tons, those in brackets being the quantity of fuel used in each class :-

| Coal Uses | Smoke | Grit | Sulphur Dioxide |
|---|---|---|---|
| Domestic (36.8) | 0.9 | 0.1 | 0.9 |
| General Industry (64.6) | 0.8 | 0.3 | 1.8 |
| Electricity (36.7) | Small | 0.3 | 1.0 |
| Railways (13.8) | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.4 |
| Others (approx. 30) | Small | Small | 1.1 |
| Totals | 2.0 | 0.8 | 5.2 |

The consequences of such vast amounts of pollution may be briefly referred to :-

Health:-

(a) Obstruction of Sunlight and Beneficial Rays of the Sun. This can amount to 50% obstruction.

(b) Psychological
"The psychological effects of reduced light and sunshine may be no less serious than the physical defects" (Beaver Report).

(c) Respiratory Illness.
The co-relation between atmospheric pollution and bronchitis is indicated by :-

(i) The high respiratory death rate for industrial and urban areas compared with rural areas.

(ii) The high respiratory death rate of this Country compared with others.

(iii) The disaster such as occurred in 1952, when fog and the build-up of atmospheric pollution was estimated to have caused over 4,000 deaths. During the time of the "smog" the average daily concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide over a considerable area rose to about five times and at some points 10 times the normal reading.

Economic :-

Finanical loss, estimated at around two hundred million pounds per year occurs through wastage of fuel and damage to buildings, materials and plant life.

Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution:-

Various methods are available depending on what particular constituent is being measured. In common with surrounding districts, Royton belongs to the Manchester and District Smoke Abatement Society and pays for two lead peroxide gauges sited at Hanging Chadder Farm and Royton Park. These are used for measuring the sulphur dioxide content of the atmosphere. Very simply the gauge consists of a louvred box containing a material coated with a chemical which reacts with the sulphur dioxide in the air.

Each month, by chemical analysis, the amount of reaction that has taken place is calculated and the results expressed in terms of sulphur trioxide per unit surface area of the chemical material. Individual findings are subject to so many variable factors that a true interpretation of results in any district can only be based on repeated observations at a large number of points over a period of years. Nor can the results in any one district be fairly related to that in another, unless among other things, the siting of the instruments are fully comparable. It is the practice in interpreting the results to compare summer and winter periods with like periods. The attached table shows the maximum and minimum readings obtained for each month of 1956 from the 10 instruments located in the six districts of this Health Division, namely, Chadderton, Middleton, Failsworth, Royton, Crompton and Lees.

### Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution - Joint Scheme No. 2.

Estimation of Sulphur Dioxide expressed as mgms.
$SO_3$/day/100 $cm^2$ Batch A. $PbO_2$
(louvred cover)

### RESULTS FOR 1956

| SITE | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CHADDERTON U.D.** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 132 Birch Lane | 3.19 | 2.55 | 2.03 | 1.81 | 1.22 | 0.98 | 0.83 | 1.25 | 1.40 | 1.98 | 2.03 | 2.93 |
| Grammar School | 5.23 | 5.12 | 3.79 | 3.31 | 2.48 | 1.95 | 1.66 | x | 2.74 | 4.18 | 3.78 | 4.77 |
| **CROMPTON U.D.** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Croft Bank, Shaw | 3.10 | 2.48 | 1.89 | 1.81 | 1.22 | 0.80 | 0.73 | 0.95 | 1.33 | 1.57 | 1.72 | 2.75 |
| Home Farm Shaw | 3.37 | 2.81 | 2.78 | 2.42 | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| **FAILSWORTH U.D.** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Highways Depot | 4.49 | 3.63 | 2.39 | 2.57 | 1.92 | 2.02 | 1.36 | 1.91 | 1.60 | 3.21 | 3.16 | 3.17 |
| **LEES U.D.** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cemetery | 2.84 | 2.81 | 1.87 | 1.87 | 1.18 | 0.98 | 0.81 | 1.02 | 1.04 | 1.64 | 2.08 | 1.99 |
| **MIDDLETON M.B.** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Town Hall | 2.64 | 2.80 | 2.41 | 2.16 | 1.18 | 0.86 | 0.68 | 0.82 | 0.92 | 1.32 | 1.96 | 2.47 |
| Thornham School | x | x | x | x | x | 1.93 | 1.22 | 1.97 | 2.33 | 2.85 | 3.17 | 4.20 |
| **ROYTON U.D.** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanging Chadder Farm | 4.30 | 3.91 | 3.43 | 2.61 | 2.00 | 1.55 | 1.32 | 1.49 | 1.99 | 2.97 | 2.54 | 3.86 |
| Royton Park | 3.78 | 2.71 | 2.48 | 2.17 | 1.60 | 1.26 | 0.96 | 1.31 | 1.54 | 1.94 | 2.28 | 3.29 |

x Post broken or cylinder damaged.

In making comparisons and assessing whether there are lasting changes or trends in the amount of sulphur dioxide emitted, the important factors are :-

(a) seasonal variations in the omission of sulphur dioxide.

(b) seasonal variations in the frequency of winds of different directions

(c) irregular variations in the frequency of winds.

As shown on the table, there is a yearly cycle of emission of sulphur dioxide wherein emission is less in summer than in winter, the latter reading being on the average over the whole country twice as high as the former. This is due in the main to the absence of domestic fires in the summer season. Where more frequent measurements are made, a weekly cycle due to industrial shutdown and amounting to a reduction of something in the order of 20% in smoke and sulphur dioxide pollution has been found to occur. Seasonal variations can also be due to the frequency of winds from different directions - whether they come from 'clean' or 'dirty' directions.

The following extract from the report of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research on observations into atmospheric pollution in the ten years ended 31-3-54 are of interest, showing general trends of pollution taking the Country as a whole - "the trends in pollution by smoke and sulphur dioxide both appear to have been downward. Some reduction of smoke would be expected to accompany improved combustion conditions in Industry. A further reduction of smoke and some reduction of sulphur dioxide at ground level are likely to have resulted from the increased use of gas and electricity in substitution for domestic coal, the consumption of which decreased by 20% between 1939/44 and 1949/54."

As elsewhere, the initial excitement which accompanied the birth of the Clean Air Act has now given way to a calm appraisal of the duties and responsibilities involved. Successful action against atmospheric pollution is based essentially on a public alive to the ill-effects of a polluted atmosphere. Furthermore, the more obvious and more general pollution from factory chimneys must first be checked before the private householder can fairly be expected to appreciate the need for having a deal with his own relatively small domestic contribution. Without doubt, the greatest obstacle to rapid progress is the high cost of smokeless fuels. However, much and however rightly the experts argue that, even at present prices, smokeless fuels in terms of heat calories are more economical than raw coal, the fact remains that for the ordinary householder, shillings, unlike calories, can be seen as well as felt.

Accepting the position as it now is, the least that can be done is firstly to ensure, by co-operation where possible, the gradual elimination of industrial smoke and air pollution. Secondly, a local survey should be made to ascertain what exactly would be involved in establishing a smoke control area in the district. Initially, perhaps, a start could be made with new housing estates or in estates now being constructed.

## Water Supply

In general the area receives a piped water supply from Oldham Corporation. There are still some isolated places where families have to rely on surface water springs supplying sumps or wells from which water must be carried in buckets.

## Sewerage & Drainage

Sewage is treated at the Council's Sewage Disposal Works at Streetbridge in detritus and precipitation tanks, afterwards passing through percolating filters to humus tanks and thence the effluent is discharged into the River Irk. Sludge drying beds are provided. The only areas of the district without a proper drainage system are isolated farm communities and a few domestic properties.

## Factories

No visits or inspections were made during the year.

## Common-lodging houses

The only common lodging house in the District has been demolished and the site cleared.

## Public Cleansing

The Transport Committee controls the public cleansing department which maintains a once weekly collection service over the greater part of the year. Disposal is by tipping on land, a tractor being used to help control of the tip.

Dustbins are replaced by the Council, the cost being borne by the Rate Fund. Over 500 dustbins were supplied during the year under this replacement scheme.

## Sanitary Accommodation

The following table shows the approximate number of the various sanitary conveniences in the district at the end of the year.

### CLOSETS

| | |
|---|---|
| Privy - midden closets | NIL |
| Pail closets | 31 |
| Trough closets | NIL |
| Waste water closets | 700 |
| Fresh water closets | 4,532 |

Of the 5,046 houses in the district less than 1% are not on the water carried system but there still remains 700 waste water closets, only 32 of this type were converted to the fresh water type during the year, and there are still far too many houses using a shared watercloset situate in communal backs.

## Shops and Offices

No time was available for routine inspections of this type of premises.

## Swimming Baths

No visits or inspections were made during the year.

## Rodent Control

One trained Rodent Operator is employed part time on this work. He carries out treatment of dwelling-houses and business premises, usually on complaint but frequently his investigations point to infestation where no complaint has been made. Dwelling-houses are treated free of charge but in order to qualify for Ministry grant, a charge must be levied on business premises. Sewers are treated at six-monthly intervals, the usual method of pre-bait and poison being followed: the poisons used alternating between Arsenic and Zinc Phosphide. Warfarin appears likely to oust other poisons so far as dwelling-houses and business premises are concerned, and I know of no other substance which can be used with so little risk of children and domestic animals and still give good results. There can be no doubt that the rodent population is being kept under control, due to constant vigilance on the part of the Rodent Operator and the Public Health Inspector.

The Workable Area Committee for rodent control meets twice yearly and provides for a close liason between representatives of Local Authorities and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Discussion takes place on procedure and methods and attendance at these meetings has proved to be of considerable value. In my opinion this important Committee should meet at least quarterly instead of once every six months.

## Summary of Rodent Control Work

| | (1) Local Authority | (2) Dwelling Houses | (3) All other including business premises | (4) Total of Cols. (a (2) & (3) | (5) Agricultural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District | 8 | 5046 | 1044 | 6090 | 20 |
| II. Number of properties inspected as result of: (a) Notification | 8 | 420 | 100 | 520 | 3 |
| (b) Survey under the Act | - | 4 | - | 4 | - |
| (c) Otherwise | - | - | - | - | - |
| III. Number of properties inspected (Sec. II) found to be infested by : (a) Rats Major | - | - | - | - | - |
| Rats Minor | 5 | 22 | 16 | 38 | - |
| (b) Mice Major | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mice Minor | 5 | 61 | 31 | 92 | - |
| IV. Number of infested properties (Sec. IV). treated by L.A. | 8 | 83 | 47 | 130 | 3 |

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Food Premises

80 visits were made to various food premises during the year. This reflects the great amount of time that had to be devoted to housing and meat inspection during the period, and with the constantly recurring emphasis on outbreaks of food poisoning and dysentery is not a happy state of affairs. Every food premises should be regularly visited as a matter of routine but this is an impossibility with the present organisation within the Department.

The following are the various types of premises in the district where food is prepared or sold :-

| Type of business | No. |
|---|---|
| General grocers and provision dealers | 58 |
| Greengrocers and fruiterers | 11 |
| Fishmongers | 5 |
| Meat shops (butchers, etc.) | 24 |
| Bakers and/or confectioners | 36 |
| Fried fish shops | 15 |
| Shops selling mainly sugar, confectionery, minerals, etc. | 24 |
| Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, etc. | 56 |
| Others | 6 |
| **Milk Supply** | |
| Milk distributors | 68 |
| Dealer's Licences - | |
| - pasteurised milk | 10 |
| - sterilised milk | 50 |
| - tuberculin tested milk | 9 |
| Supplementary Licences - | |
| - pasteurised milk | 18 |
| - sterilised milk | 17 |
| - tuberculin tested milk | 18 |

Sampling of milk is carried out by officers of the Lancashire County Council,

### Sampling of Food

I am indebted to Dr. S. C. Gawne, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following particulars of samples taken within the district:-

A total of 75 samples was obtained, of those 59 were of milk and the 16 others comprised of various types of food and drugs.

## Unsound Food

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for food on examination:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Smoked sausages | 189 lbs. |
| Cheese spread | 1½ lbs. |
| Tinned corned beef | 58 lbs. |
| frozen egg | 28 lbs. |
| pork luncheon meat | 4 lbs. |

## Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

Slaughtering continued increasingly in the three private slaughterhouses during the year and resulted in 1,489 visits being paid to these premises.

The time fast approaches when a full-time inspector will be required to cope with the throughput of these premises.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part :-

| | Cattle Excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep & Lambs | Pigs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number inspected | 4,801 | 1,742 | 269 | 32,908 | 3,513 |
| **All diseases except Tuberculosis :** | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | - | 1 | - | 2 | 2 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 400 | 161 | - | 21 | 17 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other that tuberculosis and cysticerci | 8.3 | 9.3 | - | 0.06 | 0.48 |
| **Tuberculosis only :** | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | 5 | 3 | - | - | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 190 | 221 | - | - | 100 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | 4.0 | 12.86 | - | - | 2.85 |

The following amounts of meat were found to be unfit for food at the slaughterhouses:-

| | Tons | Cwts | lbs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Due to Tuberculosis: | | | |
| Carcase Meat | 2 | 16 | 29 |
| Offal | 4 | 3 | 106 |
| Due to Other disease: | | | |
| Carcase meat | | 9 | 18 |
| Offal | 1 | 19 | 73 |
| Total | 9 | 9 | 2 |

The condemned meat is collected and disposed of by an approved trader.

# HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (i) By the Local Authority | Flats | 28 |
| | Houses | 8 |
| (ii) By other bodies or persons | | 65 |

## Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year -

| | |
|---|---|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 210 |
| (b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose | 645 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit. | |
| (a) Number found during year | 6 |
| (b) Total number (or estimated number) existing at end of year | 503 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit | 108 |
| (4) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers under the Housing or Public Health Acts | 80 |

## Action under statutory powers during the year -

| | |
|---|---|
| (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936: | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit: | |
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts: | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 8 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- | |
| (a) By owners | 8 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | - |
| (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936: | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition or Closing Orders were made | 34 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 12 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings "not to occupy" were accepted by the Local Authority | Nil |
| (4) Number of persons displaced from property dealt with under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 | 31 |

(d) Proceedings under section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Number of clearance areas represented | Nil |
| (2) | Number of houses concerned in (1) | Nil |
| (3) | Number of areas cleared | Nil |
| (4) | Number of houses concerned in (3) | Nil |
| (5) | Number of residents displaced in (3) and (4) | Nil |
| (6) | Number of houses built by Local Authority to re-house residents displaced under Clearance Orders | Nil |

## Housing Acts, 1949-54 Improvement Grants -

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | (i) | Number of Schemes submitted: | |
| | | (a) By private individuals to Local Authority | 28 |
| | | (b) By Local Authority to Ministry | 1 |
| | (ii) | Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected | 28 |
| (b) | (i) | Number of Schemes finally approved | 28 |
| | (ii) | Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected | 28 |
| | (iii) | Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these approved Schemes | Nil |
| (c) | | Number of additional separate dwellings actually completed during the year | Nil |
| (d) | | Any other action taken under the Act | Nil |

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